



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/702,524	10/31/2000	Robert A. Yennaco	5160-04	7219

7590 08/13/2004

McCormick Paulding & Huber
CityPlace II
185 Asylum Street
Hartford, CT 06103-4102

EXAMINER

THAI, CUONG T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 08/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/702,524

Applicant(s)

YENNAO, ROBERT A.

Examiner

CUONG T THAI

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-45 and 47-68 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) None is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-45 and 47-68 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2173

PART III. DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to Amendment filed on April/23/2004.
2. Claims 21-45 and 47-68 are presented for examination. Claims 1-20 have been canceled. There is no claim 46 in claimed invention. It is suggested that Applicant renumbered all claims in responsive to this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 21-25, 29-39, 43-45, 47-54, and 58-68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentably over Cook et al. (USPN: 5,727,950) hereinafter Cook in view of Martinez (USPN: 5,546,521).

As per claims 21 (method), 35 (device), 50 (computer medium), 64 (system), Cook discloses a method comprising:

Maintaining a cache specific to help data for one or more user interface components is taught by Cook as the technique of large files can be downloaded in advance of a student session or the student client can cache read-only data across obviating the need for downloading such files. Such caching requires the operating system components to maintain form of version control

Art Unit: 2173

of the read only data. In any case, the student data object, which contain all permanent and read – write data, is stored between sessions on a server (see col. 16, lines 20-27).

Cook, however, does not discloses the limitations of in response to receiving a request for help data for a newly referenced one of the components, if the help data for the referenced component is not in the cache, loading the help data for the referenced component into the cache; and supplying the help data for the referenced component for user presentation.

Martinez discloses the limitations of in response to receiving a request for help data for a newly referenced one of the components, if the help data for the referenced component is not in the cache, loading the help data for the referenced component into the cache; and supplying the help data for the referenced component for user presentation as the technique of responsive to the determination that an object is present underneath the pointer (see col. 2, lines 50-52), application C39 despite the fact that there in no help information associated with the application (see col. 6, lines 8-9), the shared memory in dynamic table database 41, from which Infomouse 35 can read help information . The dynamic help table 41 is on additional shared memory segment to the static help contained in database table 40 which is loaded form storage disk (see col. 5, lines 53-57), and guidelines for its graphical user interface (see col. 6, line 44).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Martinez teachings of in response to receiving a request for help data for a newly referenced one of the components, if the help data for the referenced component is not in the cache, loading the help data for the referenced component into the cache; and supplying the help data for the referenced component for user presentation into that of Cook's invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by capable of tracking what kind of help

Art Unit: 2173

its end user needed, and updating from dynamic table storage, and presenting help information to its end user. Thus, the system would provide an enhanced contextual help to its end user.

As per claims 22 (method), 36 (device), 51 (computer medium), and 65 (system); Cook discloses the invention substantially as claimed above. Cook, however, does not disclose the limitation of if the help data for the referenced component is in the cache, supplying the help data for the referenced component from the cache.

Martinez discloses the limitation of if the help data for the referenced component is in the cache, supplying the help data for the referenced component from the cache as the technique of the static help contained in database table 40 which is loaded from disk storage 26 (see col. 5, lines 56-57).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Martinez teaching of if the help data for the referenced component is in the cache, supplying the help data for the referenced component from the cache into that of Cook's invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by capable of presenting help information to its end user. Thus, the system would provide an enhanced contextual help to its end user.

As per claims 23 (method), 37 (device), 52 (computer medium), and 66 (system); Cook discloses the invention substantially as claimed above. Cook, however, does not disclose the limitation of loading comprises deleting the least recently requested help data in the cache if there is not enough free space in the cache to store the help data for the referenced component.

Art Unit: 2173

Martinez discloses the limitation of loading comprises deleting the least recently requested help data in the cache if there is not enough free space in the cache to store the help data for the referenced component as the technique of dynamically updated the shared memory in dynamic table database 41 (see col. 5, lines 53-54).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Martinez teaching of updating comprises deleting the least recently requested help data in the cache if there is not enough free space in the cache to store the help data for the referenced component into that of Cook's invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by capable of providing up-to-date help information to its end user.

As per claims 24 (method), 38 (device), 53 (computer medium), and 67 (system); Cook discloses the invention substantially as claimed above. Cook, however, does not disclose the limitation of loading into the cache help data for one or more non-referenced user interface components associated with the referenced component.

Martinez discloses the limitation of loading into the cache help data for one or more non-referenced user interface components associated with the referenced component as the technique of generic objects associated with application C39 despite the fact that there is no help information associated with the application (see col. 6, lines 7-9).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Martinez teaching of loading into the cache help data for one or more non-referenced user interface components associated with the referenced component into that of Cook's invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by capable of loading

Art Unit: 2173

generic non-referenced of particular component to its end user. Thus, the system would provide information associated with that component to its end user.

As per claims 25 (method), 39 (device), 54 (computer medium), and 68 (system); Cook discloses the invention substantially as claimed above. Cook, however, does not disclose the limitation of wherein said loading help data for the one or more non-referenced components is performed in a background process.

Martinez discloses the limitation of loading help data for the one or more non-referenced components is performed in a background process as the technique of application represented by application C39 contains neither static or dynamic help. This type of application is simply ignored by Infomouse 35. However, the help facility does not interfere with operation of application C39 despite the fact that is running on the top of it (see col. 6, lines 1-6).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Martinez teaching of loading help data for the one or more non-referenced components is performed in a background or underneath process into that of Cook's invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by capable of loading and running generic non-referenced of particular component to its end user. Thus, the system would provide information associated with that component to its end user.

As per claims 29 (method), 43 (device), and 58; due to the similarities of each of these claims to that of claims 24, 38, and 53; respectively, these claims are therefore rejected for the reasons as set forth above.

As per claims 30 (method), 44 (device), and 59 (computer medium); the limitation of wherein said loading comprises loading the help data into the cache from a remote source across a network is taught by Cook as the technique of the student data object which contains all permanent and read-write student data is stored between sessions on a server. This permits a student to access the ABI (Agent Based Instruction) system services from any available client system at any time by simply downloading the student data object to that client system (see col. 16, lines 25-30) through public packet switching network (see col. 15, line 62). These claims are therefore rejected for the reasons as set forth above.

As per claims 31 (method), 45 (device), and 60 (computer medium); Cook discloses the invention substantially as claimed above. Cook, however, does not disclose the limitation of wherein said receiving a request comprises receiving a notification event in response to a user changing focus in a dialog box, wherein the notification event comprises an indication of the reference component.

Martinez discloses the limitation of receiving a notification event in response to a user changing focus in a dialog box, wherein the notification event comprises an indication of the reference component as the technique of Oversee 37 is an aware application, it updates help message to be displayed over the server icon 61 depending on the status of the object. The message "server is up and running" is an example of status information (see col. 7, lines 42-46) and the pointer has moved to a window control icon in the dialog box 47. Again, Infomouse 35 queries the operating system 31 for the pointer position 49 is over an object in the graphical user

Art Unit: 2173

interface. In responsive to the message that it is over the window control 61, the Infomouse 35 first refers to the dynamic table 41, finding no help string, it then refers to the static table 40, finds help and displays a the message "double click to closes the dialog box" in help information window 60 (see col. 7, lines 53-62).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Martinez teaching of receiving a notification event in response to a user changing focus in a dialog box, wherein the notification event comprises an indication of the reference component into that of Cook's invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by capable of sending the notification message in the case of the user changes the focus control on the dialog box. Thus, the system would provide a notification tool to its end user.

As per claims 32 (method), 47 (device), and 61 (computer medium); Cook discloses the invention substantially as claimed above. Cook, however, does not disclose the limitation of receiving a preload request indicating one or more of the components, loading into the cache help data for each of the indicated components.

Martinez discloses the limitation of receiving a preload request indicating one or more of the components, loading into the cache help data for each of the indicated components as the technique of within the graphical user interface, operating system 31 is IBM's OS/2 with the help facility 35 and applications A, B and C 37, 38 and 39, which represents three types of applications compatible with the preferred architecture of the help application 35 (see col. 5, lines 39-44 and also see Fig. 3).

Art Unit: 2173

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Martinez teaching of receiving a preload request indicating one or more of the components, loading into the cache help data for each of the indicated components into that of Cook's invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by capable of providing multiple applications in conjunction with the help facility to its end user.

As per claims 33 (method), 48 (device), and 62 (computer medium); due to the similarities of each of these claims to that of claims 24, 38, and 53; respectively; these claims are therefore rejected for the reasons as set forth above.

As per claims 34 (method), 49 (device), and 63 (computer medium); Cook discloses the invention substantially as claimed above. Cook, however, does not disclose the limitation of wherein the cache is one of a plurality of maintained caches specific to help data, wherein each cache includes help data for one or more user interface components of a user interface section of a respective plurality of user interface sections.

Martinez discloses the limitation of wherein the cache is one of a plurality of maintained caches specific to help data, wherein each cache includes help data for one or more user interface components of a user interface section of a respective plurality of user interface sections as the technique of dynamic help table 41 and static help table 40 (see col. 8, lines 64-65 and see Fig. 9) wherein the dynamic help table 41 oversee of system up, server icon, server is up and running while the static help table 40 oversee minimize of window and open/close of dialog box, respectively (see Fig. 9).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Martinez teaching of wherein the cache is one of a plurality of maintained caches specific to help data, wherein each cache includes help data for one or more user interface components of a user interface section of a respective plurality of user interface sections into that of Cook's invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by capable of allowing user easy to recognize the functional of multiple caches in the entire help system.

5. Claims 26-28, 40-42, and 55-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentably over Cook et al. (USPN: 5,727,950) hereinafter Cook in view of Martinez (USPN: 5,546,521) and further in view of Medl et al. (USPN: 6,209, 006) hereinafter Medl.

As per claims 26 (method), 40 (device), and 55 (computer medium); Cook-Martinez discloses the invention substantially as claimed above. Cook-Martinez, however, does not disclose the limitation of loading into the cache additional help data indicated by one or more hyperlinks in the help data for the referenced component.

Medl discloses the limitation of loading into the cache additional help data indicated by one or more hyperlinks in the help data for the referenced component as the technique of within the interface displayed to the user on the CRT are various elements of interest 30-32, which are highlighted to enable the user to visually note areas containing additional information which might be helpful to the user to create a better understanding of a definition of the term highlighted or function thereof. Each element has a hyperlink address 40-42 linking to the specified highlighted element to a definition or other related information (see col. 2, lines 48-56 and also see Fig. 1a).

Art Unit: 2173

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Medl teaching of loading into the cache additional help data indicated by one or more hyperlinks in the help data for the referenced component into that of Cook-Martinez combined invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by capable of providing hyperlink address on the help system wherein user can access additional information based on user desired task.

As per claims 27 (method), 41 (device), and 56 (computer medium); Cook-Martinez discloses the invention substantially as claimed above. Cook-Martinez, however, does not disclose the limitation of loading into the cache further help data indicated by one or more hyperlinks in the additional help data.

Medl discloses the limitation of loading into the cache further help data indicated by one or more hyperlinks in the additional help data as the technique of a user selects particular element of interest (Definition/Function) by selecting the element using a click of a mouse or equivalent user input function (see col. 2, lines 57-59).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Medl teaching of help data indicated by one or more hyperlinks in the additional help data into that of Cook-Martinez combined invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by providing an enhance tool for retrieving additional help information to its end user.

Art Unit: 2173

As per claims 28 (method), 42 (device), and 57 (computer medium); Cook-Martinez discloses the invention substantially as claimed above. Cook-Martinez, however, does not disclose the limitation of in response to receiving a request for help data for a referenced one of the hyperlinks in the help data for the referenced component, supplying the additional help data for the referenced hyperlink.

Medl discloses the limitation of in response to receiving a request for help data for a referenced one of the hyperlinks in the help data for the referenced component, supplying the additional help data for the referenced hyperlink as the technique of within the interface displayed to the user on the CRT are various elements of interest 30-32, which are highlighted to enable the user to visually note areas containing additional information which might be helpful to the user to create a better understanding of a definition of the term highlighted or function thereof. Each element has a hyperlink address 40-42 linking to the specified highlighted element to a definition or other related information (see col. 2, lines 48-56 and also see Fig. 1a) and a user selects particular element of interest by selecting the element using a click of a mouse or equivalent user input function (see col. 2, lines 57-59).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Medl teachings of in response to receiving a request for help data for a referenced one of the hyperlinks in the help data for the referenced component, supplying the additional help data for the referenced hyperlink into that of Cook-Martinez combined invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by providing additional help information in term of interest function to its end user base upon user select a particular hyperlink in a help

Art Unit: 2173

section. Thus, the system would provide an enhance tool for retrieving additional help information to its end user.

Applicant's argument filed on April/23/2004 has been fully considered, but they are not persuasive.

On the third paragraph of page 11, Applicant argues that "regard to new claim 21, the cited art does not teach or suggest maintaining a cache specific to help data for one or more user interface components and in response to receiving a request for help data for a newly referenced one of the components, supplying the help data for the referenced component for user presentation if the help data for the referenced component is not in the cache, loading the help data for the referenced component into the cache". The Examiner, however, does not agree to this argument since Cook disclose the limitation of "maintaining a cache specific to help data for one or more user interface components" as the technique of **large files can be downloaded** in advance of a student session or the student client can cache read-only data across obviating the need for downloading such files. **Such caching requires the operating system components to maintain form of version control of the read only data.** In any case, the student data object, which contain all **permanent and read -write data, is stored between sessions on a server.** And Martinez discloses the limitations of "in response to receiving a request for help data for a newly referenced one of the components, supplying the help data for the referenced component for user presentation if the help data for the referenced component is not in the cache, loading the help data for the referenced component into the cache" as the technique of responsive to the determination that an object is present underneath the pointer, application C39 despite the fact

Art Unit: 2173

that there is no help information associated with the application, the shared memory in dynamic table database 41, from which Infomouse 35 can read help information . The dynamic help table 41 is on additional shared memory segment to the static help contained in database table 40 which is loaded from storage disk, and guidelines for its graphical user interface. Martinez further discloses that a **third generic help table is used if information is not found with the dynamic or static table** (see col. 9, lines 14-16). Thus, the system always provides help information to its end user while maintain the screen estate for storing other critical information.

On the last paragraph of page 12, Applicant argues that "the cited art fails to teach or suggest the other new independent claims for similar reasons". The Examiner, however, does not agree to this argument since the other new independent claims have been rejected for the same line of reasons applied to claim 21.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach a method and system for accessing, editing, linking, and controlling help information through a graphical based user interface.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CUONG T THAI whose telephone number is (703) 308-7234. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

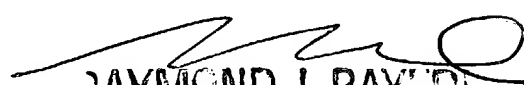
Art Unit: 2173

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (703) 308-3116. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CUONG T THAI
Examiner
Art Unit 2173

August 06, 2004.



RAYMOND J. BAYER
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2173